(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The pros and cons of ERC's recommendations and their implementation are under consideration of the Government.

Closing of DD News Channel

832. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to close down DD News Channel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether DD News Channel is facing financial crunch or losing money on large scale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) As a part of Doordarshan restructing. Prasar Bharti has, in principle, taken a decision to close down DD News and Current Affairs Channel due to its high cost and low visibility. The Board also decided that DD National Channel, which has the highest reach, will carry more programmes on news and current affairs to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

Charging of huge amount from cable operators by TV Broadcasting Companies

833. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of TV broadcasting companies have started charging huge amount from the cable operators in the country as becoming pay channels;

(b) if so, whether they have got any permission from Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) There are no provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act. 1995 to regulate either subscription

charges levied by the Pay Channels/Cable Operators or the charges payable by the Cable Operators to the TV Broadcasting Companies. These charges are purely a contractual affair between the Broadcasting Companies, Cable Operators and the subscribers, and the rates are market driven. Government does not regulate the charges levied by the Broadcasting Companies or the Cable operators.

News-Item Regarding Entry of Foreign Media

834. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Sushma volte face on foreign media entry'. which appeared in the Statesman (Kolkata), dated 18th October, 2001; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An exercise for introducing limited changes in the media policy by allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media in so far as it relates to non-news and non-current affairs newspapers and periodicals is under consideration of the Government.

Norms set by DAVP for Publication of Advertisements

835. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the norms followd by DAVP for publication of advertisements in the various newspapers; and

(b) the reasons for not giving any advertisements for publication in the Oil Field Times Economic Daily, which is published from Guwahati (Assam)?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Directorate of advertisng and Visual Publicity (DAVP) releases advertisements to newspapers empanelled with it on the basis of the provisions of the "Advertising Policy and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP.

(b) The Oil Field Times Economic Daily, English published from Guwahati (Assam) is not eligible for release of Government Advertisements as it is not empanelled with DAVP, at present.